

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 15626

STADIS////////////////////
LIMDIS
E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: SNAR, EG
SUBJECT: NARCOTICS EQUIPMENT FUNDING FOR EGYPT

REF: (A) STATE 107658, (B) CAIRO 12265, (C) STATE 152773

1. REF C REQUESTS FURTHER JUSTIFICATION FOR FIVE FOUR-WHEEL DRIVE
VEHICLES TO SUPPORT ANGA OPIUM ERADICATION EFFORT. REQUESTED VEHICLES

ARE NECESSARY TO TRANSPORT SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF OFFICERS INTO IN-
ACCESSIBLE AREAS TO SECURE CULTIVATED AREAS AND ERADICATE OPIUM
POPPIES. (ERADICATION IS ACCOMPLISHED BY CUTTING DOWN AND TRANSPORT-
ING THE POPPY PLNTS TO THE NEAREST POLICE HEADQUARTERS FOR STORAGE
UNTIL THE CASE AGAINST THE CULTIVATOR IS ADJUDICATED.) THERE WILL BE
OCCASIONS WHEN ANGA WILL BORROW OFFICERS FROM LOCAL PUBLIC SECURITY
FORCES TO PROVIDE NECESSARY MANPOWER FOR THESE OPERATIONS. FIVE
VEHICLES ARE MINIMUM TRANSPORTATION FOR SUFFICIENT MANPOWER TO EF-
FECTIVELY ERADICATE OPIUM FIELDS. WE BELIEVE TWENTY-FIVE OFFICERS
(FIVE MEN PER VEHICLE) IS MINIMUM FORCE REQUIRED FOR EFFECTIVE OPERA-
TION BECAUSE OF FREQUENT ARMED RESISTANCE AND THE ACTUAL ERADICATION
WORK. PAST EXPERIENCE HAS SHOWN THAT SMALLER FORCE INCREASES LIKELI-
HOOD OF ATTACK. AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, FIVE FOUR-WHEEL DRIVE VE-
HICLES WOULD DECREASE ANGA DEPENDENCE ON PUBLIC SECURITY FOR TRANS-
PORTATION AND INSTANCES OF CANCELLING ERADICATION OPERATIONS BECAUSE
OF COMPETING REQUIREMENTS OF PUBLIC SECURITY VEHICLES.

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2. OPIUM CULTIVATION HAS BEEN TRADITIONAL IN ASSYUT AREA OF UPPER
EGYPT, APPROXIMATELY 275 MILES SOUTH OF CAIRO. OPIUM IS DISPERSED IN
FIELDS OF INDIGENOUS CROPS TO PREVENT DETECTION. THERE ARE UNPAVED
ROADS TO GENERAL CULTIVATION AREAS, BUT NO ROADS TO OPIUM CULTIVATION
SITES. STANDARD VEHICLES CANNOT BE OPERATED IN CULTIVATION AREAS.
ERADICATION TEAM WITHOUT ADEQUATE TRANSPORTATION WOULD BE SEVERELY

RESTRICTED IN THAT THEIR AREA OF OPERATION WOULD BE MUCH SMALLER.
FIVE FOUR-WHEEL DRIVE VEHICLES WILL PROVIDE SUFFICIENT TRANSPORTATION
FOR EFFECTIVE ENFORCEMENT CAPABILITY THROUGHOUT OPIUM GROWING AREAS.

3. OUR REQUEST WAS FOR FIVE FOUR-WHEEL DRIVE VEHICLES EQUIPPED WITH
MOBILE RADIOS AND FIVE PORTABLE RADIOS. THIS IS AN ESSENTIAL COMBI-
NATION FOR COORDINATION AND SECURITY DURING ERADICATION OPERATIONS.
TWENTY-WATT MOBILE RADIOS AND FIVE-WATT PORTABLE RADIOS WILL PROVIDE
SUFFICIENT RANGE FOR OPIUM ERADICATION OPERATIONS WHICH WILL BE EF-
FECTED IN TARGET AREAS AVERAGING 20 SQ. KILOMETERS. THESE OPERATIONS
WILL BE IN RURAL AREAS WHERE RADIO COMMUNICATIONS WITH LOCAL POLICE
STATIONS (BASE STATION) WILL NOT BE NECESSARY. (PACKAGE OF FIVE
RADIO-EQUIPPED VEHICLES MANNED BY 25 OFFICERS IS BUILT AROUND CONCEPT
OF INDEPENDENT STRIKE FORCE CAPABILITY.) PORTABLE RADIOS ARE NECES-
SARY FOR OFFICERS TO COMMUNICATE WHILE ON FOOT IN THE FIELDS WITH
OTHER TEAMS EITHER ON FOOT OR IN THEIR VEHICLES. RADIO EQUIPMENT
WOULD BE COMPATIBLE WITH THAT CURRENTLY EMPLOYED BY ANGA.

4. ANGA CURRENTLY USES PUBLIC SECURITY VHF FREQUENCY. THEY ARE THEM-

SELVES IN THE PROCESS OF REPAIRING THEIR BASE ANTENNA AND ANTENNAE
FOR THREE MOBILE RADIOS AS REPORTED REF B. VEHICLES AND RADIOS CAN BE

MAINTAINED BY ANGA. MISSION WILL ASCERTAIN FREQUENCIES AND OTHER DE-
TAILS UPON RECEIPT POSITIVE INDICATION RADIO EQUIPMENT WILL BE PROVID-

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ED. INQUIRIES AT THIS STAGE WOULD PREMATURELY RAISE ANGA'S EXPECTA-
TIONS WHICH WE DO NOT WISH TO ENCOURAGE.

5. REGARDING BULLET PROOF JACKETS, WE BELIEVE THEIR INCLUSION IN THIS

EQUIPMENT PACKGE STILL JUSTIFIED. THE ELEMENT OF DANGER OF ARMED RE-
SISTANCE DURING ERADICATION CANNOT BE MINIMIZED. WHEN, OR IF, LEGIS-
LATION IS PASSED WHICH MAY REQUIRE AN EXPORT LICENSE FOR THESE JACKETS

WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD SEEK SUCH A LICENSE. REQUEST FOR 20 JACKETS IS
MODEST ONE. MOREOVER, JACKETS ARE QUALITATIVELY DIFFERENT FROM
"WEAPONS," EVEN IF LEGISLATION MIGHT LUMP THEM TOGETHER AS "POLICE
TYPE" EQUIPMENT. EILTS

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